

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system comprising:
 - a memory comprising a host and an image file;
 - a processor configured to execute the host;
 - an input / output (I/O) controller coupled to the processor; and
 - a management processing system coupled to the I/O controller and comprising a non-volatile memory;

wherein the host is configured to cause the processor to provide the image file to the management processing system, and wherein the management processing system is configured to store the image file in the non-volatile memory in response to receiving the image file from the host.
2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the management processing system comprises a network connection that is configured to provide a remote user with access to the computer system.
3. The computer system of claim 2 wherein the management processing system is configured to provide status information associated with the computer system to the remote user.
4. The computer system of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a PCI bus coupled to the I/O controller and the management processing system;

wherein the I/O controller comprises a PCI controller.
5. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the host is configured to be executed by the processor subsequent to an operating system being booted by the processor.

6. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the host is configured to be executed by the processor prior to an operating system being booted by the processor.
7. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the host is configured to be executed by the processor using an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) protocol.
8. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the host is configured to be executed by the processor using an Intermediate System Loader (ISL) protocol.
9. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the host is configured to cause the process to provide the image file to the management processing system using a plurality of messages, and wherein each of the plurality of messages comprises a header and a body.
10. The computer system of claim 9 wherein each of the headers comprises a first indicator that identifies a message type and a second indicator that identifies a message ID.
11. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the host is configured to cause the processor to provide a start file transfer message to management processing system prior to causing the image file to be provided to the management processing system, and wherein the host is configured to cause the processor to provide an end file transfer message to management processing system subsequent to causing the image file to be provided to the management processing system.
12. The computer system of claim 11 wherein the management processing system is configured to store the image file in the non-volatile memory in response to receiving the end file transfer message.

13. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the management processing system is configured to provide an acknowledge message to the host subsequent to storing the image file in the non-volatile memory.

14. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the image file comprises firmware.

15. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the memory comprises a configuration file, and wherein the processor is configured to cause the image file to be provided to the management processing system in response to information in the configuration file.

16. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the non-volatile memory comprises flash memory.

17. A method performed by a computer system that comprises a management processing system coupled to an input / output (I/O) bus comprising:

providing a start upgrade message to the management processing system using the I/O bus;

providing a first start file transfer message to the management processing system using the I/O bus;

providing a first plurality of transmit data messages that comprise a first image file to the management processing system using the I/O bus;

providing a first end file transfer message to the management processing system using the I/O bus; and

receiving a first acknowledge message from the management processing system over the I/O bus indicating that the first image file has been stored.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

subsequent to receiving the first acknowledge message and in response to determining that there is a second image file to transfer to the management processing system:

providing a second start file transfer message to the management processing system using the I/O bus;

providing a second plurality of transmit data messages that comprise the second image file to the management processing system using the I/O bus;

providing a second end file transfer message to the management processing system using the I/O bus; and

receiving a second acknowledge message from the management processing system using the I/O bus indicating that the second image file has been stored.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

providing the first start file transfer message to the management processing system using the I/O bus in response to receiving a second acknowledge message associated with the firmware upgrade message from the management processing system.

20. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

providing one of the first plurality of transmit data messages to the management processing system using the I/O bus in response to receiving a second acknowledge message associated with the start file transfer message from the management processing system.

21. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

providing the end file transfer message to the management processing system using the I/O bus in response to receiving a second acknowledge message associated with one of the first plurality of transmit data messages from the management processing system.

22. A computer system comprising:

a memory comprising an image file;
a processor coupled to the memory;

an input / output (I/O) controller coupled to the processor;
a management processing system coupled to the I/O controller and comprising a non-volatile memory;
a means executable by the processor for causing the processor to:
 provide an upgrade message to the management processing system;
 provide a start file transfer message to the management processing system;
 provide a plurality of transmit data messages that comprise the image file to the management processing system;
 provide an end file transfer message to the management processing system; and
 receive an acknowledge message from the management processing system indicating that the image file has been stored in the non-volatile memory.

23. The computer system of claim 22 wherein the management processing system is configured to store the image file in the non-volatile memory in response to receiving the end file transfer message.
24. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the management processing system is configured to provide the acknowledge message to the means in response to storing the image file in the non-volatile memory.
25. The computer system of claim 22 further comprising:
 a PCI bus coupled between the I/O controller and the management processing system.